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Express Mail Label No. EL705960635US
 Attorney Docket No. 1662-30200
 Client Docket No. P99-2848

DECLARATION

SOLE/Joint INVENTOR ORIGINAL/SUBSTITUTE/CIP

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: "**UPDATING SYSTEM ROM CONFIGURATION UTILITY USING NVRAM**", as described in the specification attached.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; that I do not know and do not believe the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application; that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representative or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application; and that I acknowledge the duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56(a). Such information is material when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) it establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
- (2) it refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant has taken or may take in:

- (i) opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
- (ii) asserting an argument of patentability.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificates listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) having a filing date before that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 USC 119
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35 United States Code § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as any subject matter of any claim of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States Application, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national PCT international filing date of this application:

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR James F. FRYE	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE 	DATE 11/28/00
RESIDENCE 12011 Laneview Drive, Houston, Texas, 77070		CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.
POST OFFICE ADDRESS SAME AS ABOVE		
FULL NAME OF SECOND JOINT INVENTOR Darren J. CEPULIS	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE 	DATE 9/27/2000
RESIDENCE 69 S. Spiral Vine Circle, The Woodlands, Texas, 77381		CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.
POST OFFICE ADDRESS SAME AS ABOVE		

DECLARATION OR OATH

- II. No declaration or oath was filed. Enclosed is the original declaration or oath for this application.

NOTE: If the correct inventor or inventors are not named on filing a nonprovisional application under § 1.53(b) without an executed oath or declaration under § 1.63, the later submission of an executed oath or declaration under § 1.63 during the pendency of the application will act to correct the earlier identification of inventorship. 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(f)(1).

OR

- The declaration or oath that was filed was determined to be defective. A new original oath or declaration is attached.

NOTE: For surcharge fee for filing declaration after filing date, complete item VI(3) below.

NOTE: The following combinations of information supplied in an oath or declaration filed after the filing date are acceptable as minimums for identifying a specification and compliance with any one of the items below will be accepted as complying with the identification requirement of 37 CFR 1.63:

"(1) name of the inventor(s), and application number (consisting of the series code and the serial number; e.g., 08/123,456);
"(2) name of inventor(s), serial number and filing date;
"(3) name of inventor(s) and attorney docket number which was on the specification as filed;
"(4) name of inventor(s), title which was on the specification as filed and filing date;
"(5) name of inventor(s), title which was on the specification as filed and reference to an attached specification which is both attached to the oath or declaration at the time of execution and submitted with the oath or declaration; or
"(6) name of inventor(s), title which was on the specification as filed and accompanied by a cover letter accurately identifying the application for which it was intended by either the application number (consisting of the series code and the serial number; i.e., 08/123,456), or serial number and filing date. Absent any statement(s) to the contrary, it will be presumed that the application filed in the PTO is the application which the inventor(s) executed by signing the oath or declaration."

Notice of Jul. 13, 1995 (1177 O.G. 60); M.P.E.P. § 601.01(a), 8th ed. Rev. 3.

NOTE: Another minimum found acceptable in the declaration is the filing date (i.e., date of express mail) and the express mail number, useful where the serial number is not yet known. But note the practice where the express mail deposit is a Saturday, Sunday or holiday within the District of Columbia. 37 CFR 1.10(c).

(complete (c) or (d), if applicable)

Attached is a

- (c) Statement by a registered attorney that the application filed in the PTO is the application which the inventor executed by signing the declaration.
- (d) Statement that the "attached" specification is a copy of the specification and any amendments thereto which were filed in the PTO to obtain the filing date.

AMENDMENT CANCELING CLAIMS

- III. Cancel claims _____ inclusive.

TRANSMITTAL OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPERS

- IV. Submitted herewith is an English translation of the non-English language application papers as originally filed. Also submitted herewith is a statement by the translator of the accuracy of the translation. It is requested that this translation be used as the copy for examination purposes in the PTO.

NOTE: For fee processing a non-English application, complete item VI(5) below.

NOTE: A non-English oath or declaration in the form provided or approved by the PTO need not be translated. 37 CFR 1.69(b).

SMALL ENTITY STATUS

- V. A statement that this filing is by a small entity

(check and complete applicable items)

- is attached.
 A separate refund request accompanies this paper.
 was filed on _____ (original).

COMPLETION FEES

VI.

WARNING: *Failure to submit the surcharge fees where required will cause the application to become abandoned. 37 CFR 1.53(d).*

NOTE: For effect on fees of failure to establish status, or change status, as a small entity, see 37 C.F.R. 1.28(a).

1. Filing fee

original patent application
(37 CFR 1.16(a), \$760.00; small entity, \$380.00) \$ _____

design application
(37 CFR 1.16(f), \$310.00; small entity, \$155.00) \$ _____

2. Fees for claims

each independent claim in excess of 3
(37 CFR 1.16(b), \$78.00; small entity, \$39.00) \$ _____

each claim in excess of 20
(37 CFR 1.16(c), \$18.00; small entity, \$9.00) \$ _____

multiple dependent claim(s)
(37 CFR 1.16(d), \$260.00; small entity, \$130.00) \$ _____

3. Surcharge fees

- late payment of filing fee
and/or
 late filing of original declaration or oath
(37 CFR 1.16(e), \$130.00; small entity, \$65.00) \$ 130.00

NOTE: Even where a facsimile declaration or oath signed by the inventor(s) was part of the originally filed papers, the surcharge fee is required.

NOTE: If both the filing fee and declaration or oath were missing from the original papers, only one surcharge fee for both need be paid. 37 CFR 1.16(e).

4. Petition and fee for filing by other than all the inventors or a person not the inventor
(37 CFR 1.17(h) and 1.47, \$130.00)

\$ _____

5. Fee for processing an application filed with a specification in a non-English language
(37 CFR 1.17(k) and 1.52(d), \$130.00)

\$ _____

6. Fee for processing and retention of application
(37 CFR 1.21(l) and 1.53(d), \$130.00)

\$ _____

7. Assignment (See "ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET".)

NOTE: 37 CFR 1.21(l) establishes a fee for processing and retaining any application which is abandoned for failing to complete the application pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53(j) and this, as well as, the changes to 37 CFR 1.53 and 1.78 indicate that in order to obtain the benefit of a prior U.S. application, either the basic filing fee or the processing retention fee of § 1.21(l) within one year of notification under § 1.53(j) must be paid.

Total completion fees: \$ 130.00

EXTENSION OF TERM

VII.

(complete (a) or (b) as applicable)

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) apply.

(a) Applicant petitions for an extension of time, the fees for which are set out in 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1)-4, for the total number of months checked below:

Extension (months)	Fee for other than small entity	Fee for small entity
<input type="checkbox"/> one month	\$ 110.00	\$ 55.00
<input type="checkbox"/> two months	\$ 380.00	\$190.00
<input type="checkbox"/> three months	\$ 870.00	\$435.00
<input type="checkbox"/> four months	\$1,360.00	\$680.00

Fee: \$ _____

If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor.

(check and complete the next item, if applicable)

- An extension for _____ months has already been secured and the fee paid therefor of \$ _____ is deducted from the total fee due for the total months of extension now requested.

Extension fee due with this request: \$ _____

OR

- (b) Applicant believes that no extension of time is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that Applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time.

TOTAL FEE DUE

VIII. The total fee due is

Completion fee(s)	\$130.00
Extension fee (if any)	\$ _____

Total Fee Due: \$130.00

PAYMENT OF FEES

IX.

- Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$130.00
- Charge Account No. 03-2769 the sum of \$ _____
A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

NOTE: Fees should be itemized in such a manner that it is clear for which purpose the fees are paid. 37 CFR 1.22(b).

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE ADDITIONAL FEES

X.

WARNING: *Accurately count claims, especially multiple dependent claims, to avoid unexpected high charges if extra claims are authorized.*

NOTE: "Amounts of twenty-five dollars or less will not be returned unless specifically requested within a reasonable time, nor will the payee be notified of such amounts; amounts over twenty-five dollars may be returned by check or, if requested, by credit to a deposit account." 37 C.F.R. § 1.26(a).

- Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the following additional fees that may be required by this paper and during the pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 03-2769.
- CFR 1.16(a), (f) or (g) (filing fees)
 37 CFR 1.16(b), (c) and (d) (presentation of extra claims)

NOTE: Because additional fees for excess or multiple dependent claims not paid on filing or on later presentation must only be paid or these claims canceled by amendment prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the PTO in any notice of fee deficiency (37 CFR 1.16(d)), it might be best not to authorize the PTO to charge additional claim fees, except possibly when dealing with amendments after final action.

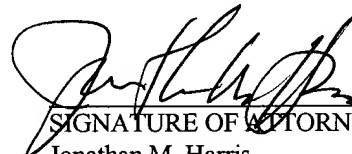
- 37 CFR 1.16(e) (surcharge for filing the basic filing fee and/or declaration on a date later than the filing date of the application)
- 37 CFR §§ 1.17(a)(1)-(5) extension fees pursuant to § 1.136(a))
- 37 CFR 1.17 (application processing fees)

NOTE: *"A written request may be submitted in an application that is an authorization to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. An authorization to charge all required fees, fees under § 1.17, or all required extension of time fees will be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission. Submission of the fee set forth in § 1.17(a) will also be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in any concurrent reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission."* 37 CFR § 1.136(a)(3).

- 37 CFR 1.18 (issue fee at or before mailing Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.311(b))

NOTE: *Where an authorization to charge the issue fee to a deposit account has been filed before the mailing of a Notice of Allowance, the issue fee will be automatically charged to the deposit account at the time of mailing the notice of allowance.* 37 CFR 1.311(b).

NOTE: 37 CFR 1.28(b) requires "Notification of any change in loss of entitlement to small entity status must be filed in the application ... prior to paying, or at the time of paying ... issue fee." From the wording of 37 CFR 1.28(b): (a) notification of change of status must be made even if the fee is paid as "other than a small entity" and (b) no notification is required if the change is to another small entity.



SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY
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